

Message Text

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CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SOUDA AIR BASE

REF: ATHENS 10922

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1. THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE FOR USE BY THE US DELEGATION WHEN NEGOTIATIONS RESUME.

2. LANGUAGE IN SOUDA APPENDIX ARTICLES IV.2, V.3 AND VI AGREED AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION IS APPROVED.

3. HELICOPTER AND DIVERT ALERT DAY CEILINGS AND THE OCCASIONAL USE OF SOUDA BY TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL ISSUES REMAINING IN SOUDA NEGOTIATIONS. TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES IN THESE ISSUES, WE ARE WILLING TO USE AS BARGAINING POINTS OTHERS WHICH HAVE NO REAL VALUE TO US BUT WHICH ARE OF PRESENTATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE GREEKS. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD INFORM THE GREEKS THAT IN RETURN FOR THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE HELICOPTER CEILINGS PROPOSED BY THE US IN DRAFT ARTICLE III.3, TWENTY CARRIER AIRCRAFT DIVERT ALERT DAYS IN III.5, AND CEILING EXCEPTIONS FOR OCCASIONAL TRAN-

SIENT AIRCRAFT IN III.7, WE ARE PREPARED TO: ACCEPT PROPOSED GREEK LANGUAGE AND DELETE "RECONNAISSANCE" IN III.1. (WE SEE NO POINT IN PRESSING FURTHER FOR LANGUAGE WHICH WE MIGHT WISH TO INTERPRET AS PERMITTING TACTICAL AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS AT SOUDA. THE GREEKS CLEARLY WILL NOT AGREE TO SUCH OPERATIONS AT THIS TIME. SHOULD THEY ACQUIESCE TO US TACTICAL OPERATIONS IN THE FUTURE, THEY COULD DO SO WITHOUT SUCH A PROVISION IN THE AGREEMENT. NOTING THE GREEK SENSITIVITY TO INCLUDING A PROVISION POINTING TO US INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS FROM SOUDA, WE CAN AGREE TO THE DELETION OF THE WORD "RECONNAISSANCE" ON THE BASIS THAT THIS CLASSIFICATION IS SUBSUMED UNDER THE GENERAL CATEGORY OF MARITIME PATROL.)

4. GREEKS MAY INSIST ON DELETING US-PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO: AUTHORIZE GREEK INSTALLATION COMMANDER TO INCREASE SORTIE
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RATES (ART III.2); PERMIT US SENIOR OFFICER TO REQUEST EXCEPTIONS TO MARITIME PATROL OPERATIONS LEVELS AND PEAK LOADING CEILINGS (ART III.4); AND PROVIDE FOR FUTURE CONSULTATION ON THE NATURE AND LEVEL OF US OPERATIONS (ART III.6). IF SO, TRY TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE THIS SAME LANGUAGE IN A SEPARATE EXCHANGE OF NOTES. IF UNSUCCESSFUL, AGREE TO THE DELETION OF THOSE PROVISIONS AS FURTHER CONCESSION TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES IN PARA 3 ABOVE. (LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE US IS PERMISSIVE. ITS DELETION WOULD NOT PRECLUDE THE US FROM MAKING REQUESTS FOR INCREASED OPERATIONAL LEVELS IF IT CHOSE TO DO SO. BY THE SAME TOKEN, INCLUSION OF THE LANGUAGE WOULD IN NO WAY OBLIGATE THE GREEKS TO RESPOND IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE ALREADY AGREED CONSULTIVE PROVISION IN ARTICLE XVI.2 OF THE DCA IS A SUFFICIENT BASIS TO INITIATE FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON THE NATURE AND LEVELS OF US OPERATIONS.)

5. IF, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES IN PARA 3 ABOVE HINGE ON THE QUESTIONS OF

DIVERT ALERT DAYS, YOU MAY AGREE WITH THE GREEK FORMULA-
TION OF III.5, THEREBY REDUCING THE US CEILING FROM TWENTY
TO FIFTEEN. (US DELEGATION WILL RECALL THAT FIFTEEN IS A
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FALLBACK POSITION.)

6. INSTRUCTIONS ON COST SHARING ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOW
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